

Maricopa County's Southeast Justice Center

The County's recently approved \$46.2 million Southeast Justice Center project will be located in Mesa in the current County complex at Mesa Drive and Highway 60.

The project will include the co-location of the North Mesa, East Mesa, and West Mesa Justice Courts, as well as providing an additional Justice Court anticipating the need for a growth precinct in the southeast valley. The growth precinct Justice Court will be used by the Superior Court until such time as it is needed as a Justice Court. The North Mesa and East Mesa Justice Courts are currently located in leased space.

The current Early Disposition Court/Regional Court Center (EDC/RCC) is operating in the Superior Court cafeteria. The EDC/RCC program expedites first offender cases and disposition of felony matters. The program has been a success and this project will provide for three EDC/RCC courtrooms further enhancing the Courts ability to process caseload.

Justice Courts and EDC/RCC courts require holding cells. By co-locating these functions the holding capacity can be economized. In addition, the County will explore opportunities to relocate the booking and holding functions of the Sheriff's Substation within the new project, allowing the current inefficient and obsolete substation to be abandoned as a location for future Juvenile detention expansion when needed.

Office space will be provided to relocate Adult Probation, currently located on Centennial Way in downtown Mesa. An 1100 car parking garage will be built to accommodate not only the new functions moving to the complex, but to relieve an existing parking shortage. A single secured point of entry will be provided for all of the operations of the new project, as well as the existing Southeast Regional Public Service Facility, which the project will adjoin.

There are no conceptual renderings yet available. The solicitation for an architect went out in early November 2005, with letters of interest due on December 5, 2005. Final selection should occur by January 17, 2006. Construction is scheduled to begin in November of next year, with completion slated for August 2008.